

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY A/OC-W:KFORREST:ABM

APPROVED BY A/OC - WENAEHER

A/OC/AF:RLLOCHMILLER

AF/W:JLOUGHRAN

AF/EX:EMAGURE

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R 162220Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180804

JOINT A/CO-AF MESSAGE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:ACOM, NG, NJMR

SUBJECT:NOUAKCHOTT-NIAMEY HF LINK

ACCRA FOR RCO

REF: NIAMEY 2749

1. INSTALLATION OF THE NIAMEY-NOUAKCHOTT HF RADIO LINK IS AN ESSENTIAL STEP FORWARD IN THE WATTS PROGRAM AND WILL PROVIDE A MORE RELIABLE AND COST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR BOTH NIAMEY AND NOUAKCHOTT. THE TYPE ANTENNAE PROGRAMMED FOR NIAMEY HAS BEEN SELECTED TO ACHIEVE BEST POSSIBLE RADIO OPERATIONS BETWEEN NIAMEY AND NOUAKCHOTT.

2. WE HAVE EXAMINED THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATING THE ANTENNAE AND CONCLUDE THAT A CONSIDERABLE WORK EFFORT, ADDITIONAL CABLES AND NEW FOOTINGS FOR THE TOWER
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WILL BE REQUIRED. IN ADDITION IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO

RELOCATE THE RECEIVE ANTENNAES TO AVOID INTERFERENCE. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT RELOCATING THE ANTENNAE TO THE REAR OF THE CHANCERY WILL ACCOMPLISH MUCH IN TERMS OF CONCEALMENT.

3. IF THE GON INQUIRES ABOUT PURPOSE OF ANTENNAE WE COULD OFFER COMPLETE BRIEFING OF WATTS PROGRAM SINCE THE SYSTEM IS AN UNCLASSIFIED ITEM. ON A CURRENT BASIS POST COULD STATE THAT ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM HAS GENERATED NEED FOR IMPROVED COMMO SUPPORT. NIGER GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY IS BENEFICIAL RECIPIENT OF THIS PROGRAM AND WOULD PROBABLY CONDONE RADIO OPERATION ETC. ALSO RECIPROCAL RADIO RIGHTS CAN BE OFFERED TO THEM IF THEY DESIRE.

4. WILL ASSIST POST IN ANYWAY POSSIBLE IN RESPONDING TO ANY GON APPROACH. KISSINGER

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